

**METHOD FOR PROVIDING INCENTIVE TO PLAY GAMING DEVICES
CONNECTED BY A NETWORK TO A HOST COMPUTER**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for providing incentive to players of networked slot
machines includes a card reader associated with each machine and a
card associated with each player. A player account accessible by a host
computer on the network is created which associates the player's card
with the account. A predetermined credit is applied to the player's
10 account. In a complementary incentive, credit from the player's
account is applied to the coin-in meter of a slot machine responsive to
insertion of the player card into a card reader associated with the
machine. In a matching incentive also implemented by the present
invention, each time the player inserts a coin into the slot machine, an
equal credit is debited from the player's account and applied to the
15 coin-in meter of the machine. In both cases, the credit can only be used
by the player to play the machines and cannot be cashed out ~~by the~~
player.

cul 4/18/02
can 4/18/02